

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER DISCUSSES BOSCH, GULF AND WESTERN
AND POLITICAL FREEDOM

1. INTERVIEWED BY PERUVIAN WRITER MARIO VARGAS LLOSA ON MARCH 3, PRESIDENT BALAGUER CALLED HIMSELF THE FOREMOST ADMIRER OF EX-PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH - "AS AN INTELLECTUAL, ALTHOUGH HE IS A MARXIST-LENINIST." HE SAID BOSCH, WHO HAD DECLARED HIMSELF TO BE A COMMUNIST AND MAINTAINED CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISTS ABROAD, ENCOUNTERED NO INTERFERENCE FROM GOVERNMENT BECAUSE "GOVERNMENT HAS ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR THE FREEDOM OF IDEAS."

2. LATER IN INTERVIEW, BALAGUER STATED THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS. IT WAS TRUE, HE ADDED, THAT SOME LEFTISTS WERE IN PRISON, BUT THAT WAS FOR COMMON CRIMES. AS AN EXAMPLE OF HIS POLITICAL TOLERANCE, HE ASSERTED THAT VARIOUS COMMUNIST LEADERS COULD FREELY EXERCISE THEIR PROSELYTIZING ACTIVITIES.

3. ASKED WHY GODR HAS NOT EXPROPRIATED GULF AND WESTERN CANE LANDS, PRESIDENT SAID THE STATE IS ALREADY LARGEST OWNER OF CANE LANDS AND G&W IS REINVESTING PROFITS IN PRODUCTIVE WORKS IN COUNTRY. ALONG WITH VICINI CONSORTIUM,
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G&W IS IMPROVING THE LOT OF ITS WORKERS THROUGH TRAINING AND

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT. FALCONBRIDGE TOO, HE SAID, IS PERFORMING SATISFACTORILY. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, GOVERNMENT IS EXERCISING CONTROL OVER THESE ENTERPRISES SO THAT THEIR EARNINGS WILL BENEFIT COUNTRY.

4. ON INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, PRESIDENT SAID "TRUJILLOISM" WILL NEVER RETURN TO DR. TRUJILLO'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION WAS DEVELOPMENT OF SUGAR INDUSTRY, BUT ALL TRUJILLO LANDS ARE NOW IN HANDS OF THE STATE. MOREOVER, DOMINICAN MILITARY HAVE DEVELOPED DEMOCRATIC IDEAS AND NO LONGER HAVE COUP MENTALITY.

5. PRESIDENT SAID 1975 PROMISES TO BE A GOOD YEAR FOR DOMINICANS DESPITE CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH. ATTITUDE OF CHURCH HAS BEEN TOLERANT TOWARD POPULATION PLANNING. CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS ARE GOOD AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONFLICTS BETWEEN CHURCH AND "FREEMASONRY." IN FACT, THE THREE FATHERS OF THE COUNTRY - DUARTE, SANCHEZ AND MELLA - WERE ALL FREEMASONS.

6. COMMENT. PRESIDENT WAS AT HIS EXPANSIVE AND TOLERANT BEST IN INTERVIEW. HIS COMMENTS ON BOSCH WILL WEAKEN LATTER'S CASE IN STRIDENTLY CASTIGATING BALAGUER REGIME.
HURWITCH

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